



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



OCTOBER 5, 2025

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

LECTIONARY 27

10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Faith is not a matter of more or less. Jesus' point of the mustard seed is genuine faith may seem small but it is infinite. Handed down to us through family, friends, and even strangers, such faith contains generations. As Paul reminds us, the gift of God alive in you is power, love, and self-discipline. We have been called with a holy calling as faithful servants to suffer as Christ for others. With the help of the Holy Spirit, live guarding the good deposit of faith entrusted to you.

GATHERING

*The congregation is invited to join in the **Bold** responses.*

Prelude

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Tune FAITHFULNESS by William M. Runyan

Organ setting by Dan Miller

The congregation stands as the cross is carried into the sanctuary.

Processional Hymn

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” ELW 597

MELITA

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*
3. His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*
4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne!

Please be seated.

Welcome

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is
marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

The congregation may kneel or sit for the Confession. Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.

Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ✠, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Please stand as able.

Kyrie

“O Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us” from *All Creation Sings*

Holy Communion Setting Eleven
Jack Richardson, cantor

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is for the cantor, with lyrics: "O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy." The second staff is for the congregation, marked "All", with the same lyrics. The third staff is for the leader or all, marked "Leader or All" and "All", with lyrics: "Have mer - cy, O Lord. Have mer - cy, O Lord." The melody is simple and hymn-like, using a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for

the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Temple Talk

“Stewardship 2026”

Jacobi Adams, Soup Kitchen volunteer

WORD

First Reading

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Karen Feezor, lector

¹The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw. ²O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? ³Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. ⁴So the law becomes slack, and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous; therefore judgment comes forth perverted. ¹I will stand at my watchpost and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me and what he will answer concerning my complaint. ²Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. ³For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. ⁴Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faithfulness.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 37:1-9

Madeline Phillips, Kate Suchanek, cantors

Psalm 37:5 (Dorothy Christopherson) Refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.



Com - mit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD.

Do not be provoked by | evildoers; do not be jealous of those | who do wrong. ²For they shall soon wither | like the grass, and like the green grass | fade away. ³Put your trust in the LORD | and do good; dwell in the land and | find safe pasture. ⁴Take delight | in the LORD, who shall give you your | heart's desire. R ⁵Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust | in the LORD, and see what | God will do. ⁶The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun. ⁷Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in | evil schemes. ⁸Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil. ⁹For evildoers shall | be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land. R

Second Reading

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Karen Feezor, lector

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ²To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. ⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but

it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹²and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia” from Holy Communion Setting Three

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel **Luke 17:5-10**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 17th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you. ⁷“Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table?’ ⁸Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink?’ ⁹Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon “Infinite faith” Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day “What Is the World Like” ACS 1047 from *All Creation Sings* NEW WORLD

Text : Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979; Music: Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952; T&M © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc.

1 What is the world like when God's will is
2 What is the world like when God's will is
3 What is the world like when God's will is
4 What is the world like when God's will is
5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im -

done? done? done? done? parts,
 Mus - tard seeds grow more than
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing
 No more is neigh - bor just
 Read - y for feast - ing, we
 filled with the Spir - it who

we can con - ceive: roots thread the
 child com - ing home; watch as the
 al - ly or friend; peace thrives in
 watch through the night, tend - ing our
 joins us as one. Born through our

soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 plac - es where once there was none.
 lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,

This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

The pastor invites new member Rodney Stephens and sponsors Marc and Susan Ginns to come forward.

The sponsors say,

We present Rodney Stephens, who desires to make public affirmation of his baptism.

The pastor continues.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for this brother in Christ, who you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called him to yourself, enlightened him with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished him in the community of faith. Uphold your servant Rodney in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

The pastor addresses the new member.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

The Pastor addresses the new member and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he
will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness
of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

The pastor addresses the new member.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The pastor addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support this brother and pray for him in his life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

The pastor continues with prayers.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in Rodney the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

The pastor addresses the assembly.

Let us rejoice with Rodney, our brother in Christ.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and
proclaim the good news to all the world.**

The congregation welcomes the new member by acclamation. The service continues with the prayers.

Please be seated.

Prayers of Intercession

Tom Tolbert, prayer assistant

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

O God of power and grace, you give us, your church, a treasure in Jesus Christ. Draw us anew into the

infinite gift of faith passed down from generation to generation. Remind us again that faith the size of a mustard seed is enough to recreate, to move, and to replant the things of this world so that institutions, communities, and peoples might grow in new and wondrous ways. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Lord of beauty, our eyes revel in the colors of autumn. Let these visual signals remind us that chilly nights and inclement days soon may cause discomfort and anguish to our homeless and impoverished neighbors. Open our hearts to share our relative abundance with those who are needful. Inspire us individually to share our time and resources to staff and provide services to those who come to us seeking aid. May we look compassionately into every face as we provide food and shelter and see Christ in our midst. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God of peace, we thank you that in love you have sought us out and redeemed us through faith in Jesus Christ. You continually lead us to use Spirit-given power, love, and self-discipline to serve others and exemplify lives of peace. We believe that you are moving purposefully to lead all people to reject intimidation, meanness, oppression, and violence. Sustain and increase our faith as we wait expectantly and patiently for communities, tribes, and nations to live in righteous harmony. Remove the blight of separation, isolation, militarism, and warfare from all the earth. Grant all people the peace and sustenance that can come only from you. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

O God of those in need, you care for those who are sick, oppressed, bereaved, lonely, and poor. Come to the help of all in need and grant strength to those who serve others as caregivers, first responders, police officers, and fire fighters. Bless and strengthen our extended church family with healing and strength: John Graham, Mark Thornton, Tom Tolbert, Dr. Samuel Davis, Bill Penrod, Bob Roach, Payton McAdams, Dale Hopp, Bill Coppedge, Marcia Newlin, Andres Puky, Ashlyn Bordelon, Betsy League, Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Marilyn Stevens, Satoko Yamada, Judy Cox, Ross Boheler, Charlene Oppermann, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Gene Ellington, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa and Oakley Coburn, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Arlene Fielding, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Lord of our lives and our congregation, grant us discernment as we deliberate on calling an associate pastor. Remind us that our individual roles will increase as our pastors guide us to realize new ministries. Help us support each other as fellow workers for Christ through daily prayer and physical presence. Strengthen us to be enthusiastic in well-doing. Encourage us when our paths seem uncertain. Lead us to assist our pastors by providing additional time, talent, and resources for our shared mission as new and continued tasks require support. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

O God of generations, we thank you for the ongoing witness of those who have died in the faith. Like Lois and Eunice who passed their faith to Timothy, so shape and protect the good deposit of faith entrusted to us in your Son Jesus Christ, that we might also pass our faith on to new generations. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please stand as able, sharing the peace of the risen Christ.)

MEAL

Please be seated.

OFFERING

(Offerings for the mission of the church are gathered by the ushers.)

Anthem

“Christ’s Flock”

Martin Shaw

In Christ’s own flock let love be surely placed, from Christ’s own flock let concord hate expel, of Christ’s own flock let love be so embraced, as we in Christ, and Christ in us may dwell. Christ is the author of all unity, from whence proceedeth all felicity. O sing unto this glit’ring glorious King, O praises bring from ev’ry living thing. Let heart and voice like bells of silver ring. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” ELW 733

FAITHFULNESS

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960; Music: William M. Runyan, 1870-1957; T&M: 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

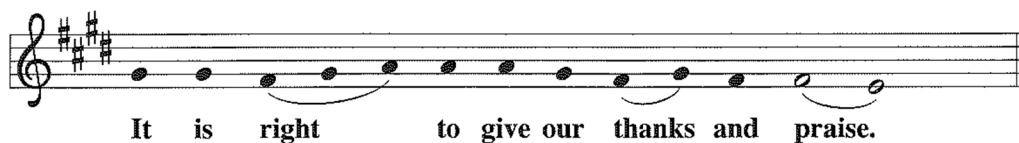
Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

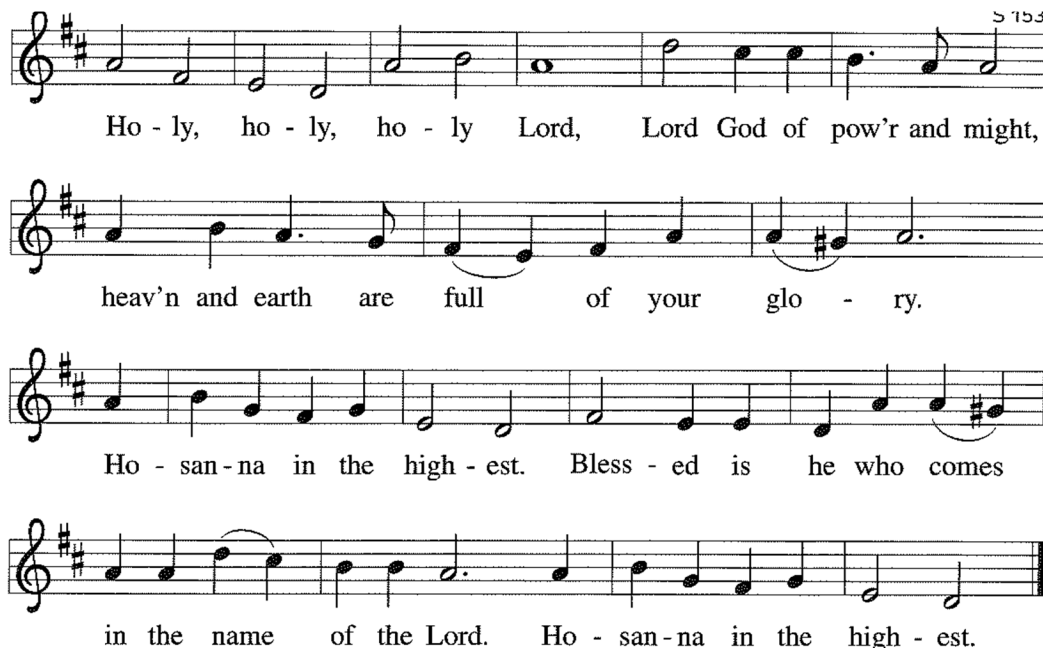


Proper Preface

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord”

Holy Communion Setting Four



Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

Please be seated.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Holy Communion is offered continuously at the Lord's table and at the high altar. Please follow the ushers' prompts, walking forward to the desired communion station and returning via the side aisles. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, distribution is by wafers and small cups, and on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of the month distribution is by intinction. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are always available.

Communion Music

"O Lamb of God"

Holy Communion Setting Four

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

"Improvisation on 'My Faith Looks Up to Thee'"

Tune NEW WORLD by Sally Ann Morris
Setting for organ by Alfred Fedak

Communion Hymn "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" ELW 759 stanzas 1 & 2

OLIVET

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887; Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
guilt away, oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!
2. May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

"Prelude on 'What Is the World Like'"

Setting for cello and organ by Robert Longfield

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

SENDING BLESSING

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Please stand as able.

Recessional Hymn

“How Firm a Foundation” ELW 796

FOUNDATION

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787. Alt.; Music: Early American

1. How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
2. “Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”
3. “When through fi’ry trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.”
4. “Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov’reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

Please stay for a Special Congregational Meeting to call an Associate Pastor to be held immediately following the service.

Postlude

“Flourish for an Occasion”

Noel Rawsthorne

✠

✠

✠

This service adapted/reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, copyright 2019 Augsburg Fortress and *Sundays and Seasons*, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. CCLI #11377824

Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Tom Tolbert; crucifer: Andrew Puky; acolyte: Ella Puky; lector: Karen Feezor; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: Ken Williams, Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Jenny Dagenhart, Sally McCauley; greeters: Gretchen Dodge, Charles & Susan Lakeman; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Karen & Kevin Feezor, A. J. Pridgen, John Simon; communion helper: Karen Covington; tabulators: Charles Lakeman, Joe Barrett; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Jack Richardson, Kate Suchanek, Madeline Phillips, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Larry Dagenhart, Jr.; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Meg Fielding; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Team C; greeters: Jackie Ellington, Evelyn Gerdes; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Janice Miller, Chris Stevenson, Betsy Wenzel, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Janice Miller, Doug Milhem



Parish News

From the pastor -

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." (1 Corinthians 12:12)

During the "Time after Pentecost," we celebrate the triune God who enlivens, encourages and sends the church into mission in the world. The church is not a building, but rather, a congregation of people gathered and sent into the world by Jesus to be living signs of God's steadfast love for all people. We are one body the church, and amid the world's brokenness, the church is called to be God's transformative presence that overcomes barriers and divisions, proclaiming what God has done for us. In the season after Pentecost, we remember that God is steadfastly calling the church to be a voice of unity, compassion, justice and love. How is God calling you to use your gifts for Christ at St. Mark's? We have been clothed with Christ in baptism to welcome, care for, and love all people!

In the life of the Spirit,
Pastor Tim McKenzie
pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

Altar Flowers Today are given in memory of husband Frank Chance, brother Dan Holecy, and parents Rose & Dan Holecy by Flora Chance.

Today: Special Congregational Meeting to call Rev. Alexandra Rode as Associate Pastor to St. Mark's. Please stay for this important meeting after the service.

10/19 Annual Congregation Meeting following the 10:30 service to vote on new council members. No 8:30 service.

10/21 Ethnic Restaurant at La Shish Kabob.

10/23 St. Mark's Book Group "How to Read a Book" by Monica Wood

10/26 Annual Book and Puzzle Swap Reformation Sunday Gather the books and puzzles you want to share. Bring as many as you want. Take as many as you like on Oct. 26. Remaining books will be donated to Julia's Café and Books, Habitat for Humanity's Restore.

Upcoming Schedule: 11/2 All Saints Sunday with the Rededication of the Columbarium Prayer Garden and Potluck Luncheon. Congregational Life will supply the meat, please bring side dishes/desserts. All are welcome!

Aid for Hurricane Helene Victims Thank you to all for your donations. If you would like to help, please  hover your phone camera over the QR code to connect to the NC Synod's website.

Thinking of joining St. Mark's? Please see Pastor Tim to set up a time to talk. All people are welcome at St. Mark's!

The Christian Education Hour is at 9:30 am on Sundays. You are invited to join the Faith Forum for lively discussion. The class meets at 9:30 in the Large Conference room. New members are always welcome.

Online worship is streamed live every Sunday at 10:30 am on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@st.markslutherancharlotte234/streams>), St. Mark's website (<https://saintmarkscharlotte.org/live-stream/>), and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarksLutheran/>).

St. Mark's email list If you are not receiving emails from St. Mark's, we may not have your correct email address. Please contact the church to let us know. We send at least 2 emails every week.

Family Ministry

Nursery: A fun-filled nursery, staffed by volunteers, is located downstairs. An usher is available to show you the way. Our safety protocols offer peace of mind so you can worship without worry.

Confirmation Class meets every Sunday at 9:30.

Stewardship

The 2026 Stewardship Appeal brochure was mailed last week. Please be prepared to offer your completed pledge form on Reformation Sunday, October 26, when all pledges will be offered together. Your pledge helps St. Mark's ministries of worship, service and fellowship continue over the coming year. Pledge cards are available in the Gathering Place. An online pledge option is also available from our website, or you may use the QR code.



You may use the QR code at left (hover your phone camera to connect) for immediate access to St. Mark's website donation page.

Pledges and donations for Altar Flowers may also be made using this code.

2025 Altar Flower Sponsorship If you would like to sponsor live flowers for our Sunday worship service, please sign up on the calendar by the mailbox room or contact the church office.

Social Ministry

PAT'S PLACE Take a moment to notice the poster and baskets in the gathering place for donations to PAT'S PLACE. This agency coordinates the investigation, treatment and prosecution of the guilty parties of the most severe cases of child abuse. These steps are all performed privately by trained professionals. After this process, they are free to leave after choosing a donated gift. If you are not familiar with this special agency, there is a writeup taped to the easel holding the poster with donation suggestions. Please help us fill these baskets and the hearts of traumatized young people suffering severe abuse.

NOURISH UP (formerly Loaves & Fishes) is facing **empty shelves.** This is due to the increase in the cost of groceries, resulting in less donated food. Nourish Up is also unable to replenish this shortage because of a sharp cut in federal funding. They are in need of financial assistance in order to purchase fresh produce, dairy products and bread to accompany the donated non-perishables. If you wish to donate financially, checks can be sent to St. Mark's with "Nourish Up" on the memo line. They will be sent as soon as possible. Our "summer food drive" targeting school children may be officially over, but the need of Hungry families unfortunately continues. Our baker's rack will always be waiting for your generous donations of "unbreakable nonperishable" food items. Thank you for your continuous support of this outreach to our community's less fortunate.

Soup Kitchen St. Mark's Soup Kitchen is serving lunch in the Fellowship Hall every Thursday for our neighbors. If you would like to serve, please contact us. You may also support the Soup Kitchen through financial donations sent to the church, or through St. Mark's online giving portal. Help us share God's love!

Announcements

AA meets in the Fellowship Hall: Monday nights "Third Tradition", 7 pm; Wednesday nights "Just the Basics", 7:30 pm; and Thursday nights "Not a Glum Lot", 6:30 pm; in Room 106: Thursday nights at 6:30 pm & Saturday morning 10:30 am "SLAA".

Music Notes

"What Is the World Like" ACS 1047 This hymn is one of six hymns included in *All Creation Sings*, written by Adam Tice (b.1978). Adam is the congregational song editor for GIA publications, a member of the executive committee of the Hymn Society, and was the text editor for the new Mennonite hymnal, *Voices Together* (2020), published in the same year as our *All Creation Sings*. This hymn was written in 2009, inspired by four parables of Jesus: the mustard seed, the prodigal son, the good Samaritan, and the ten bridesmaids. Sally Ann Morris (b. 1952) wrote the tune **NEW WORLD** for this hymn. She is a native North Carolinian, and currently the musician-in-residence at the Wake Forest University School of Divinity in Winston-Salem, NC.

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" ELW 597 Edward Mote (1797-1874) an English Baptist pastor, wrote this hymn in 1834. Mote ran a successful cabinet-making business, but at age fifty-five, became the pastor of the Baptist Church in Horsham, Sussex, where he served for twenty-one years. After his conversion he wrote, "O ignorant was I that I did not know there was a God." This hymn was included with over one hundred hymns, published in his *Hymns of Praise* (London, 1836), and given the subtitle *A New Selection of Gospel Hymns, Combining All the Excellencies of Our Spiritual Poets with Many Originals*. This may be the first book that used the designation "gospel hymn." Our hymnal pairs Mote's hymn with two different tunes: **THE SOLID ROCK** (ELW #596) by William Bradbury, and the tune we sing today by John B. Dykes (1823-1876) **MELITA**, which is the ancient name for the island now known as Malta, where Paul was shipwrecked and found safety (Acts 28:1-2). Dykes composed the tune **MELITA** for the hymn "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" ELW 756, also known as the "Navy Hymn."

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

October 6, William Tyndale, translator, martyr (1494-1536)

William Tyndale was ordained in 1521, and his life's desire was to translate the scriptures into English. When his plan met opposition from Henry VIII, Tyndale fled to Germany, where he traveled from city to city, living in poverty and constant danger. He was able to produce a New Testament in 1525. Nine years later he revised it and began work on the Old Testament, which he was unable to complete. He was tried for heresy and burned at the stake. Miles Coverdale completed Tyndale's work, and the Tyndale-Coverdale version was published as the "Matthew Bible" in 1537. For nearly four centuries the style of this translation has influenced English versions of the Bible from the King James (Authorized Version) to the New Revised Standard Version.

October 7, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America (1711-1787)

Muhlenberg was prominent in setting the course of Lutheranism in North America. He helped Lutheran churches make the transition from the state churches of Europe to a new identity on American soil. Among other things, he established the first Lutheran synod in America and developed an American Lutheran liturgy. His liturgical principles became the basis for the *Common Service* of 1888, which has formed the basis for the majority of North American Lutheran service books of the past century. That Muhlenberg and his work are remembered today was anticipated at his death. The inscription on his grave reads in Latin, "Who and what he was, future ages will know without a stone."

Adapted from *Sundays and Seasons*

St. Mark's Prayer List

John Graham, Mark Thornton, Tom Tolbert, Dr. Samuel Davis, Bill Penrod, Bob Roach, Payton McAdams, Dale Hopp, Bill Coppedge, Marcia Newlin, Andres Puky, Ashlyn Bordelon, Betsy League, Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Marilyn Stevens, Satoko Yamada, Judy Cox, Ross Boheler, Charlene Oppermann, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Gene Ellington, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa and Oakley Coburn, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Arlene Fielding, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests (pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

Readings for 10/12/2025 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost/ Lectionary 28

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c
Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

Birthdays

10/5 Doris Phillips
10/5 David Simpson
10/5 Steve Rach
10/7 CJ Miles
10/7 Katarina Miles
10/7 Michael Lakeman
10/8 Ashley Ginns
10/9 Flora Chance
10/10 Susan Lakeman



Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim (pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)



Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor

pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Lester Ackerman,

Director of Music Ministry, Organist

les@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Sue Wadgyman, Parish Administrator

admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator

finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1001 Queens Road, Charlotte, NC 28207 | saintmarkscharlotte.org | 704.375.9185